

## THE INDEPENDENT

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Daily, By Mail, One Year, \$5.00  
 Daily, By Mail, Per Month, \$1.00  
 Weekly, One Year, \$2.00

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Advertisements, to insure prompt insertion, should be handed in before 5 p. m.

Rejected communications not returned unless postage is enclosed.

HELENA, MONT., OCT. 22, 1889.

## THE MONTANA FRAUD.

St. Paul Globe: Developments in Montana election matters confirm the Globe's original assertion that the action of the republican canvassing board in Silver Bow county is nothing more nor less than downright ballot theft, and is a parallel infamy with that perpetrated in 1876, when scoundrelism prevailed over law and justice. If the republican party, or its leaders, can afford to shoulder the responsibility for this dastardly attempt to steal the legislature of Montana, then the consequences of their crime be upon them. Our information from Montana, and it is thoroughly reliable, goes to show that there is not a mitigating circumstance in this attempted ballot theft. The thieves do not claim that they have law on their side, nor do they deny that the democratic legislative candidates received a majority of the votes cast in the county of Silver Bow. The "technicality," so called, upon which they hinge their infamous action is that only two of the three election judges were at their post all of the time during election day; and even this tender technicality was based upon the ex-parte statement of a notorious political striker, who is just out of the penitentiary. So apparent is the infamy perpetrated by the Silver Bow canvassing board that the honest republicans of Montana, including such prominent gentlemen as ex-Gov. Carpenter, Judge Blake, of the supreme court, Delegate Carter and others are outspoken in their condemnation of the fraud.

That class of republicans, both in and out of Montana, who are disposed to justify the action of the Silver Bow canvassers, do it upon the assumption that the excessive democratic vote at Precinct No. 34 was prima facie evidence of fraud—that it was impossible there should be so many voters of one party in a community, and so few of the other. They point to the 174 votes for the democratic candidates and the five votes for the republican candidates as evidence of a fraudulent count. This theory is upset, however, right in the beginning, by the fact that the election judges were republicans and cast three of the five republican votes at that precinct. It is scarcely possible that the judges, being republicans, and voting for the republican candidates, would deliberately go to work and count out other republican votes. More than that, the disparity in the party vote at Precinct 34 is not such an uncommon occurrence as the Montana ballot thieves would have us believe. We have only to refer to our election returns here in Minnesota for the proof of our assertion. Down in the staid old county of Fillmore, a county of exceptional morals, at the last presidential election the Norway voting precinct gave Harrison 193 votes and Cleveland 5. In Freeborn county the Rice land precinct gave Harrison 138, Cleveland 9. In Kandiyohi county, the Aretander precinct cast 123 votes for Harrison and 4 Cleveland. One precinct in Kittson county gave Harrison 45, Cleveland 1. In some precincts Harrison received the entire vote. In fact, we can recite fifty instances, right here in Minnesota, where the disparity in the voting strength of the parties, as exhibited by the election returns, is as great, or greater, than in the Silver Bow precinct which was thrown out by the Montana republican canvassers.

It is asserted, on what seems to be good authority, that the Silver Bow outrage was concocted by an aspiring Montana politician whose hopes of gaining a seat in the United States senate depended on the success of this rascally scheme. It would be a sad commentary on the social and political conditions of Montana if one smart scoundrel could prove an over-match for the honesty and intelligence of the whole people of the state. It would be equivalent to advertising Montana as a good state for rascals to flock to and for honest men to keep away from. Such would be the impression made outside the borders of Montana if this Silver Bow rascality were permitted to stand. Surely, the good people of Montana do not want to make their advent into the Union under a darker cloud than overhung Louisiana during the reign of the carpetbagger. Party victories are of short duration at best, but the stain which would be inflicted upon Montana by the accomplish-

ment of this dastardly outrage would last forever. The people of Montana, regardless of party, owe it to themselves to set the state right in this matter, and see to it that every vote cast in Silver Bow county last election day shall be counted.

It is particularly the duty of the Democratic leaders to resist the commission of this crime against the ballot to the last extremity. The case has been appealed to the courts, and there is scarcely a reason to doubt that the final decision will be what it ought to be, unless the president interferes in the meantime by removing some of the honorable judges now in office and replacing them with more pliant tools of the gang. This is hardly possible. There is a probability, however, that the ballot thieves will endeavor to keep the Silver Bow case hung up in the courts until after the time for the meeting of the legislature, and will then make an effort to seat the republican beneficiaries of the fraud. It will be at this stage of the game that the democrats in the legislature will be required to display nerve. It will be their duty to resist every effort to seat the false claimants and to block legislative proceedings until doomsday, if necessary, to prevent the perpetration of fraud and to protect the purity of the ballot. There is no occasion for mincing words or politely measuring swords when confronted by a gang of robbers. The only way to fight the devil is with fire. So that it is the unquestioned duty of the Montana democrats to gird up their loins to fight the scoundrels from the word go, and to die in the last ditch rather than surrender or compromise a single principle in this affair. The eyes of the nation are upon them, and they are expected to do their duty.

## THE PEOPLE AROUSED.

The strong and stirring editorial articles on the Montana crime from the leading newspapers of the country, which we are reproducing from day to day, show that public sentiment throughout the land is becoming aroused to a pitch of indignation that has not been seen since the consummation of the great crime by which the presidency was stolen in 1876. It is evident that the conspirators against the ballot, in Montana as well as elsewhere are standing on the danger line, and that they cannot safely ply their crimes much longer without bringing upon themselves swift and sudden punishment at the hands of an outraged people.

We wish to say to our friends in other states that the democrats of Montana are standing firmly in line, shoulder to shoulder, against the attacks of organized scoundrelism. They are law-abiding, order-loving citizens, who will exhaust every legal process to secure their rights and they know they will obtain them. They know that the desperate gang they are dealing with will leave no device of practiced rascality untried to wrest their rights from them, but they are firmly resolved that the men whom they have elected shall be inducted into the offices to which they were chosen. There will be no halt or retreat.

MR. THOMAS C. POWER, defeated candidate for governor, writes a card to the Helena Journal, in which he objects, among other things, to THE INDEPENDENT's criticism upon him and proposes to "hold the editor of THE INDEPENDENT personally responsible" for such articles. He is quite right in his determination to fix the responsibility upon the editor; he is quite wrong in assuming that this journal is "owned and controlled by resident members of the 'Big Four.'" A majority of the stock of THE INDEPENDENT Publishing Company is held and owned by the editor, who has absolute control of the editorial columns of THE INDEPENDENT and is solely responsible, personally or in any other way, to Thomas C. Power, or any other man, who has any objections to offer or threats to make.

The other matter in Mr. Power's card is not of the slightest interest or importance at this time. Mr. Power is a political back number—a collapsed side issue, and neither THE INDEPENDENT nor the public would have any interest in him now, except for the fact that since his defeat he has been seen in the company of Bernard, Sanders, Seligman and Herschfield, and other disturbers of the peace and conspirators against the ballot, and it has been a fair presumption that he was trying to break into the office to which he was not elected. If he has given up evil designs and associations, and is trying to reform and lead the life of an honest private citizen, THE INDEPENDENT has no quarrel with him; but whenever and wherever he bobs up as a candidate for a public trust, or a conspirator against the ballot, we shall expose him, in his true character, to the public. There is just one thing for Mr. Thomas C. Power to do, and that is to get back into the walks of private life. And that without unnecessary delay. There we shall not follow him.

PRESIDENT ELIOT, of Harvard, has set the example for the independent voters of the country by declaring himself no longer an independent, but a full-fledged democrat. The New York Evening Post, in commenting on Mr. Eliot's stand, says: "There were doubt-

less a few in some parts of the country who flattered themselves that things would improve under Gen. Harrison and with this idea went back to the republican party in 1888, but Gen. Harrison has, we think, effectually put an end to this shilly-shallying. In 1892, we suspect, there will be no more of it, nor will there be any third party except the prohibitionists. The independents, among whom President Eliot classes himself, will probably find the democratic party good enough for them, or, at all events, the best they can command and will be satisfied with it. The present administration is clearing thousands of minds of all doubt on this point."

THE INDEPENDENT is still waiting for the Herald, or some of its old mossback contributors to get down to business and tell us about the greatest political crime ever perpetrated in Montana—the Fort Union frauds, by which Sanders tried to get 2,000 more votes than he was entitled to. The daily dose of Botkin's lament is growing very tiresome.

THE ST. PAUL GLOBE is mysterious. It says: "One Montana politician has made a mistake in his route. He started out with the intention of going to the United States senate. The road he is now traveling leads to the state prison." Which one of the gang does the Globe mean? There are three or four who answer to its description.

THE decision of Chief Justice Blake and the associate justices yesterday to call a special term of court for next Monday to let Judge DeWolfe dispose of the mandamus proceeding in the Tunnel precinct election contest, was wise. There is now no reason why the whole matter cannot be disposed of promptly.

## TWO GENTLEMEN OF MONTANA.

Sanders—How now Jack, how now? You tremble and look pale.

Jack—Marry, most noble duke, but 'tis a vile business I am about to 'scape. Me thinks 'twill up-kick a devil of a row. I like it not; I like it not.

Sanders—Odds gosh, good Jack, what aileth thee? And thou hath a conscience left, and it from thee P. D. Q. I once did have a conscience, too. It troubled me 'o nights, and in my dreams I fain would start, and squirm, and shriek, and whoop, and kick the bed clothes 'cross the room, and in my rage with desperate clutch dash quick to snuff out the bed-room lamp!

Jack—Didst have the jim-jams, most noble duke?

Sanders—Odds gosh, I had them not. I had them not. I had a coward conscience like thyself. Go put thy conscience in the soup as I did mine, and naught will worry thee again. An thy conscience will not die, go get a jag on thee like thy comrade Hall, and direct the deed is done skip out to foreign lands.

Jack—But, good noble duke, perchance I do thy bidding, what get I for it?

Sanders—Get? What wastest thou? The earth? That thou canst not have. I'll take the earth myself. But anything in reason will be thine. There is much boodle—but soft! Let not Lee Mantel hear us speak. Go thou in peace and keep it dark. Anon I'll pull Lee Mantel's leg, and make the Earl of Seligman shell out five thousand ducats more. 'Tis I he'll 'scape, but shall he must. I'll get there, Eli, if I bust the bank. I'll work them all—I'll work them all. Leave that to me. Arise, good Jack, and get a gut on thee.

Jack—I go, good noble duke. Anon, I'll see thee later. (Exit.)

Sanders—Anon, good Jack! Skip well the gutter! What ho, my heart, sit still! Thou leapest at the thought. What though the people tumbled And did get onto me, and do me up, Erstwhile I ran for congress; I'll be revenged! And they'll be razzle-dazzled! Now, by the holy smoke, I'll yet be senator; and with my noble toga Rolled up into a bunch, I'll Swat them in the face!

Sanders, old boy, thou art the stuff!

Thou'rt bound to work this royal bluff.

—Anaconda Standard.

## STEALING MONTANA.

Chicago Globe: The Montana democrats are not the kind of men to let the enemy rob them of their honestly won victory and steal the state.

Chicago News: There are now forty-two states in the Union, but the chances are that there will only be forty-one a few days hence, as a mighty effort is being made by a lot of politicians to steal Montana.

Chicago Herald: Has it been agreed that it is easier to steal the state than to compel its return to territorial leading strings? Is there enough true democracy and real liberty in Montana to make the sort of scoundrelism practiced in Silver Bow county dangerous to the villains who are responsible for it?

St. Louis Republic: Because it succeeded in committing grand larceny on the presidency of the United States, the republican party imagines it can commit petit larceny on Montana. Times have changed, however, since the country permitted itself to be disgraced by the infamous fraud of 1876.

Philadelphia Record: The republicans die hard in Montana. Having been out voted at the polls, they have sought to correct the returns by throwing out what doesn't suit them. We mistake the courage and spirit of the Montana democracy if they can be bullied, bribed or cheated out of their well-earned victory.

Indianapolis Sentinel: The Montana fraud will be hailed by the republican party all over the country as a glorious achievement. It is strictly in line with republican traditions, and harmonizes perfectly with the record of the "grand old party" which "saved the country" and "freed the slave" and is now snatching the surplus.

Misconception: The worst feature of the election muddle is the effect it will have in

different parts of the country. Eastern people will wonder what kind of a place Montana is when the result cannot be learned in all this time. They will be apt to compare Montana with Louisiana, Florida and other states where similar trouble has existed before. It is feared they will actually think Montana is a "rotten borough." This muddle will keep capital and emigrants away.

## THE MARKETS.

## STOCKS.

NEW YORK, Oct. 21.—Bar silver 95%. Copper—Neglected; lake nominal. Lead—Quiet; weaker domestic nominal. The stock market was more active, but decidedly weak today, and the declines made were very material, reaching all portions of the list although trusts, grangers and stocks were the principal sufferers. The entire active list is materially lower to-day, the most important declines being sugar 3/4, Delaware & Hudson 2 1/2, Manhattan 2 1/2, lead and cotton oil each 2 1/2, Lackawanna 1 1/2, Transcontinental 1 1/2, Northern Pacific preferred 1 1/2, Missouri Pacific 1 1/2, Northwestern and Lakesore each 1 1/2, St. Paul 1 1/2, Rock Island and Union Pacific 1 per cent. Governments dull, steady.

Petroleum opened steady at 96%, and moved to 100% in the first hour, when the market became quiet and remained so until the close, which was steady at 100%.

Government bonds, U. S. 127 1/2, 4 1/2%, 104 1/2; Northern Pacific, 21; preferred, 21 1/2; Oregon Improvement, 50; Oregon Navigation, 99 1/2; Transcontinental, 32 1/2; Union Pacific, 64.

Money on call tight from 60 to 12. Closed offered at 3. Prime mercantile paper 5 1/4 to 5 1/2. Sterling exchange quiet; weak; sixty-day bills, \$4.91 1/2; demand, \$4.85 1/2.

## CHICAGO PRODUCE.

CHICAGO, Oct. 21, 1:15 p. m.—Close—Wheat—lower Oct. 75 1/2; Dec. 80 1/2; May, 82 1/2. Corn—Steady; Oct. 30 1/2; Nov. 30 1/2; May, 32 1/2. Oats—Easy; Oct. 17 1/2; Nov. 18 1/2; May, 21 1/2. Pork—Steady; Oct. 11.00; Nov. 9.87 1/2; Jan. 9.45.

Land—Steady; Oct. 36.00; Nov. 36.00; Jan. 35.00; Feb. 35.00.

## CHICAGO CATTLE.

CHICAGO, Oct. 21.—Cattle—Receipts, 13,000, steady and a shade higher; choice to extra beefs \$4.00 to \$4.20; steers \$3.00 to \$3.20; stockers and feeders \$2.00 to \$2.20. Texas cattle \$1.50 to \$2.00; western range \$2.00 to \$2.20.

Hogs—Receipts, 30,000; 5c lower; mixed, \$1.00 to \$1.10; heavy, \$1.00 to \$1.10; light, \$1.00 to \$1.10. Sheep—Receipts, 10,000; steady; natives, \$2.00 to \$2.20; westerns, \$1.50 to \$1.75; Texans, \$1.50 to \$1.75.

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